

SIERRA CLUB,
January 13, 2022.

Re: Sierra Club's support for the Freedom to Vote: John R. Lewis Act.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of our over 3.8 million members and supporters, I write to express our strong support for the Freedom to Vote: John R. Lewis Act and urge it's immediate passage.

This act will ensure every American has equitable access to the ballot box, protect against election sabotage, prohibit extreme partisan gerrymandering and set limits on the influence of dark money in politics. Protecting and strengthening the freedom to vote for every American is the bedrock principle of our democracy and this Act seeks to do just that.

Last year alone, prompted by the Big Lie, over 400 anti-voter bills were introduced with 19 states enacting more than 30 of those laws, all with the intent of rolling back voting rights for Americans. This year as state legislatures convene, more anti-voter bills have already been prefilled with more expected to be introduced and passed in the coming weeks/months. Federal legislation is desperately needed in order to stop these states attacks on voting rights.

The time is now, we must act swiftly to protect the freedom to vote and ensure our democracy is equitably accessible to all Americans, regardless of zip code. We urge our Representatives on behalf of our 3.8 million members and supporters, to not delay and immediately pass the Freedom to Vote: John R. Lewis Act.

Sincerely,

DAN CHU,
Acting Executive Director,
Sierra Club.

WOMEN OF COLOR COALITION,
January 13, 2022.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: We write in strong support of the House Amendment to the Senate Amendment to H.R. 5746, the Freedom to Vote: John R. Lewis Act, which will ensure that voters can safely and freely cast their ballots, protect against election sabotage, stop partisan gerrymandering, and limit the influence of dark money in politics so that billionaires can't buy elections.

Nineteen states enacted 34 new laws that restrict access to the ballot box in 2021 alone and more are under consideration today. Candidates are running for top election offices peddling the Big Lie. States are passing racially-gerrymandered maps that dilute the power of Black and Brown voters. This legislation would fight back against all these attacks and ensure the ability for every American to participate in safe, accessible, and transparent elections.

Our organization fully endorses this bill and urges you to support this legislation.

Sincerely,

RACHEL GREEN, MPA,
Founder & CEO,
Women of Color Coalition.

HONORING ROBYN DOBERNECKER
AS IOWAN OF THE WEEK

HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 14, 2022

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Robyn Dobernecker as Iowan of the Week.

An Iowa native, Robyn has had a passion for animals for as long as she could remem-

ber. She got her start as a kennel attendant at age 18, working with animals who needed to be adopted. She rose up through the ranks and became a senior animal control officer, where she humanely took animals off the streets, got them fed and cleaned, and ready for adoption. She decided to broaden her horizons and work at a vet clinic to better understand animal medicine. Through this, she finally got into the Animal Rescue League (ARL) of Iowa, where she is now the intervention coordinator and is responsible for confiscating animals abused at facilities in the state of Iowa. She is also the official point of contact for the rescue efforts for over 500 dogs that were confiscated by a puppy mill breeder, who received one of the harshest penalties for animal welfare violations in USDA history.

After getting three complaints about dog abuse in the summer of 2021, Robyn decided to investigate. What she found was appalling—animals left alone, abused, and neglected. Finding these dogs had little to no water, no food, and inadequate shelter, she immediately called the Iowa attorney general, whose authorization was required to get into the facility and confiscate the animals. With no response, she decided to go to the breeder's hearing, where the USDA and DOJ were prosecuting. Hearing that the breeder's trial will be delayed, Robyn barged into a room of the courthouse full of federal prosecutors for DOJ and said, "My name is Robyn, my job is to help animals get out of abusive homes. But to do what I do, I need your authorization and for you to get on board, and I need a restraining order so I can get ahold of these dogs." This was on a Friday. On that next Monday, DOJ reached out to her and asked if they could work with her to get these dogs out of the facility.

After coordinating with government agencies and other animal rescue organizations, she was able to rescue the first round of dogs on October 13th. Once the breeder officially surrendered on November 1st, Robyn went in with her team and was able to confiscate the rest of the 414 dogs—she got all of them out over the next two days. This difficult feat was catalyzed by Robyn's desire to make a difference for communities. To see those dogs' tails wag for the first time and being able to hug and kiss the puppies once they were all clean made the process of rescuing them worth it. While there is always more work to do to counter animal abuse, we can revel in the admirable work it takes to rescue those who are in harm's way.

I am honored to designate Robyn Dobernecker as Iowan of the Week.

SUPPORTING H.R. 6330, THE NON-MARKET ECONOMY OVERCAPACITY REFORM ACT

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 14, 2022

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to announce my introduction of H.R. 6330, the Nonmarket Economy Overcapacity Reform Act.

For too long, the United States has been deferential to foreign governments who undermine American workers and manufacturers

through unfair trade practices, targeted subsidization, and excess production capacity. This playbook involves undercutting American industry, flooding the domestic markets with imports, distorting competition, and driving competition under.

Our trade laws allow American manufacturers to seek relief from the International Trade Commission only after they've sustained material injury from uncompetitive trading practices. The decline in American manufacturing shows these laws to be insufficient. How many dormant American factories could have been saved before unfairly subsidized imports flooded U.S. markets? How much wealth has been shipped overseas, only to come back in the form of goods that put American workers out of a job?

Last year, the United States Trade Representative testified before the Ways and Means Committee on the need for forward-looking trade laws that protect American industry from price dumping, unfair competition, and illegal subsidies. In many cases, we know non-market economies intend to undermine American workers and our nation's industrial base through unfair means—it is their stated policy.

The Nonmarket Economy Overcapacity Reform Act will give the United States the tools we need to protect American jobs from the looming and established threat of global excess capacity. This narrowly tailored bill gives the United States the right to proactively seek antidumping and countervailing duties in demonstrated instances of buildup in excess production capacity. By focusing on non-market economies, this bill seeks to preserve the beneficial and lawful competitive trading relations we have established with our allies and good-faith trading partners around the globe.

Madam Speaker, the United States has a responsibility to protect our Nation's manufacturers from unfair trading practices. When put on a level playing field, I know American workers can outperform anyone in the world—we must support them. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 6330, the Nonmarket Economy Overcapacity Reform Act.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF MR. JOHN McDONALD

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 14, 2022

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and legacy of John McDonald, Local 1650 president and emeritus faculty member at Henry Ford College in Dearborn, Michigan. His significant contributions to Henry Ford College, the greater Dearborn community, and beyond are worthy of commendation.

After graduating from Detroit Catholic Central High School, Mr. McDonald attended Henry Ford College and then the University of Michigan—Ann Arbor, where he earned bachelor's and master's degrees in English. He began teaching 19th century American literature and English composition at the college in 1969. After gaining tenure in 1971, he became involved in Henry Ford Community College American Federation of Teachers' Local 1650 and soon became a trusted leader